

CANBERRA - Highlights from Household Expenditure Survey 2003-04

- Canberra had the second highest average household expenditure (\$1,052 a week).
- Canberra also had the second highest level of gross household income (\$1,399 a week).
- Between 1998-99 and 2003-04, total expenditure on goods and services in Canberra increased by 22%, a figure that was lower than the increase for Australia as a whole (26%).
- Comparing each broad category of goods and services expenditure, Canberra had the highest expenditures on:
 - domestic fuel and power (\$32 a week);
 - clothing and footwear (\$51 a week);
 - medical care and health expenses (\$61 a week);
 - personal care (\$21 a week);
 - miscellaneous goods and services (\$107 a week). Within this category, Canberra had relatively high expenditure on fees (\$23 a week) such as union dues and education fees (\$13 a week).
- Canberra recorded the highest expenditure on petrol (\$37 a week).
- Canberra recorded the lowest expenditure on tobacco products (\$9 a week).
- Significant increases in expenditure over the five years from 1998-99 were on pay TV (up 650%), mobile telephone charges (up 139%), health practitioners' fees (up 100%) and health and accident insurance (up 84%).

Differences in demographic characteristics of households help to explain Canberra's relatively high levels of expenditure. These factors include:

- The average number of employed people per household in Canberra was higher (1.4 per household).
- A relatively high percentage of households with wages and salaries income as the principal source of income (67%) and low percentage of households with the government pensions and allowances as the principal source of income (17%).

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Average weekly expenditure (\$)	938	888	820	814	871	753	1,038	1,052	883
Mean gross household income per week (\$)	1,212	1,134	1,036	1,033	1,098	897	1,401	1,399	1,128

Extract from Tables 25 and 26 of Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results, 2003-04 (cat. no. 6530.0).

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